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CRITICIZES RUMANIAN PERIODICAL

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Comertul Interior (Domestic Trade) is published by the Ministry of Domestic Trade and by the Federation of Employees' Unions in Commerce, Finance, and Cooperatives. The periodical is published to stimulate the political and professional education of personnel under the Ministry of Domestic Trade. It has dealt with the following subjects: the distribution of consumers' goods, trade between city and country, commercial education, planning of school activities, the utilization of local resources, the value of continued reduction of distribution expenses, the preservation of perishable commodities, and errors in internal trade. Articles by Soviet writers appear in every issue. Other articles are written by workers in Rumanian enterprises. The periodical has dealt with both practical and theoretical problems.

However, it has failed to handle important questions properly. Not a single issue contained specific examples of achievements in the distribution of goods, trade between city and country, or the discovery of capitalist speculators dealing in commodities. Insufficient attention has been given to the production of consumers' goods. Only one article, entitled, "Toward a Closer Connection Between Production and Distribution of Food Products," discussed consumer goods production. The article failed, however, to solve the problem, either theoretically or practically. It contributed nothing toward better quality and variety of goods. At the same time, the authors did not study the words of Gheorghiu-Dej on socialist commerce, nor did they appear familiar with the studies of the party and the government in this field.

Stating that state stores constitute the main source of supply for the workers is erroneous. In a period when capitalism has not been liquidated either in commerce or agriculture and when small holding predominate in agriculture.

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No party or government organ affirms that state stores are the sole supply of the worker. In addition to the trade carried on in state stores, there are cooperative and state collective trade, and also collectives which sell the surplus of their own plots. Stalin himself said that it would be a serious error to believe that commerce can be developed along a single line. Comertul Interior, by its unjustified statement, underestimates the value of cooperative trade as an integral part of socialist commerce.

The periodical failed to combat errors in trade. It ignored a whole series of party documents and articles on the subject. It published eight articles in 1951 on the utilization of local resources. However, none of these furnished any solution to the problems involved. The articles gave no concrete examples of errors or improvements. One article merely stated that it is necessary to follow the experience of the Soviet Union without pointing out which Soviet methods are applicable.

Only one article discussed planned economy. There was no effort to stimulate productivity of labor or to encourage the reduction of distribution costs and losses in perishable commodities. Only one article was devoted to the important question of the winter supply of vegetables to workers. The item pointed out the necessity of concluding contracts between state commercial units and cooperatives, on the one hand, and between collection and distribution agencies, on the other. There was no mention in this or any other article of contracts with vegetable growers. Conclusion of contracts with vegetable producers should have been discussed in the October and November issues.

A complete lack of political vigilance on the part of the staff is apparent. For example, in the March issue, a passage is attributed to J. V. Stalin, whereas it was not by him. In the same issue, no author was mentioned for an article on the planning of cost production.

The periodical did very little to encourage plan fulfillments. It dealt with competitions in a superficial manner. Achievements of Stakhanovites and enterprises were mentioned in general terms, with no specific examples. There was no criticism of enterprises which failed to fulfill plans. The periodical did not devote sufficient attention to new methods in trade and finance.

To improve in 1952, the periodical must have as its main theme the monetary reform. In addition, it must combat capitalist elements in town and village, uncover speculators, and show employees in trade and commerce the best methods for fulfilling their tasks. At present, when private business is still necessary in domestic trade, it will be the duty of the periodical to show that socialist enterprise is far superior.

In addition, Comertul Interior must uncover faulty distribution of goods, point out failures in contract fulfillment, encourage the construction of enterprises for the utilization of local materials, and enforce plan discipline.

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